

# AIR QUALITY HEALTH ALERT PLAN 2012

## I. INTRODUCTION

On March 12, 2008, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (the “EPA”) revised<sup>1</sup> its national ambient air quality standards (“NAAQS”) for ground-level ozone (the primary component for smog), which had last been revised in 1997. This revision was the result of a required review process mandated by the Clean Air Act, as amended in 1990. Prior to the revision, an area met the 1997 ground-level ozone standards if the three-year average of the annual fourth-highest daily maximum eight-hour average at every ozone monitor (the “eight-hour ozone standard”) was less than or equal to 0.08 parts per million (ppm). Because ozone is measured out to three decimal places, the 1997 ozone standard effectively became 0.084 as a result of rounding. For years 2005-2007, San Antonio maintained average ozone readings of 0.082 ppm and was, therefore, compliant with the then-current 1997 EPA ground-level ozone standards.

The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to designate areas as “attainment” (meeting the standards), “nonattainment” (not meeting the standards), or “unclassifiable” (insufficient data to classify). As a result of the revisions to the NAAQS in 2008, states were required to make recommendations to the EPA no later than March 12, 2009 for areas to be classified attainment, nonattainment, or unclassifiable. In a letter dated March 10, 2009, Texas Governor Rick Perry submitted a list<sup>2</sup> of twenty-seven counties in Texas, including Bexar County, recommended for designation as nonattainment under this requirement.

However, on September 16, 2009, the EPA announced<sup>3</sup> that it was reconsidering the 2008 revised NAAQS and on January 6, 2010, the EPA proposed<sup>4</sup> further revisions to the NAAQS. Specifically, the EPA is proposing to (i) strengthen the primary eight-hour ozone standard (for the stated purpose of protecting public health) to a level within the range of 0.060 and 0.070 ppm and (ii) establish a distinct, seasonal secondary standard (for the stated purpose of protecting public welfare) at levels less stringent than the primary standard described above (together, the “proposed 2010 NAAQS Revisions”). In early December 2010, the EPA announced<sup>5</sup> their intention to set a final air quality standard by 2013. Whenever a primary standard is revised, the revision process resets the three-year maximum time limit for designations under the newly revised standard, as required in the Clean Air Act. Nevertheless, it is important that the City of San Antonio stay vigilant.

The City of San Antonio has taken an active leadership role to implement pollution prevention measures year-round, especially during the Air Quality Health Alert (AQHA)

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<sup>1</sup> National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone; Final Rule, March 27, 2008:

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-AIR/2008/March/Day-27/a5645.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, March 10, 2009. Letter to: Mr. Lawrence E. Starfield, Acting Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6.

[http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/implementation/air/rules/eight\\_hour/gov\\_letter\\_031009.pdf](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/implementation/air/rules/eight_hour/gov_letter_031009.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> “EPA to Reconsider National Standards for Ground-Level Ozone,” September 16, 2009:

<http://www.epa.gov/air/ozonepollution/actions.html>

<sup>4</sup> Published in the Federal Register on January 19, 2010;

<http://www.epa.gov/air/ozonepollution/fr/20100119.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> “EPA Administrator Requests More Input from Agency's Science Advisors,” December 8, 2010:

<http://www.epa.gov/air/ozonepollution/actions.html>

Season. The AQHA program targets specific days that may result in high ozone levels. The TCEQ notifies the community of an impending AQHA by 2 PM the day prior to an anticipated high ozone day in order to provide the community time to modify activities. Through outreach efforts, citizens are provided information on altering activities that reduce emissions and pollution and consequently lower ozone levels.

This *Air Quality Health Alert Plan* (AQHAP) establishes guidelines and procedures for reducing emissions of ozone-forming compounds into the atmosphere, both on “Alert” days as well as throughout the ozone season. City Departments, through voluntary compliance with the AQHAP, will modify certain activities on AQHA days. This year will be the tenth year that the City has reviewed and implemented a plan to reduce ozone. All essential and emergency services remain unaffected. Since the implementation of the AQHAP, many Governmental Agencies, School Districts, and Industries have developed their own Air Quality Plans. To date, over 300 plans were developed by private industry, Local Governments and School districts, and Clean Cities Coalition Stakeholders. These Agencies have voluntarily committed to reducing air pollution by submitting their plans to the Council of Governments for record.

## **II. BACKGROUND AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

What is ground-level ozone? Ground-level ozone is the major component of smog and is not typically emitted directly from any source. Ozone is generally created in urban environments as a result of air pollution. Uncontrollable factors such as sunlight, high temperatures and low winds combine with controllable emissions to form ground-level ozone. Emissions that contribute to ozone formation can be grouped into two basic classes: 1) volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as fuels, solvents, paints, etc. and 2) oxides of nitrogen (NOX), which form as a by-product of combustion. Ground-level ozone can damage your health, aggravating allergies, asthma, and lung disease. Groups, such as children, field workers and the elderly, are most sensitive to increased levels of ground-level ozone.

The City believes that San Antonio can achieve clean air this ozone season if the entire community works together to reduce emissions, especially on AQHA days. To date, the San Antonio region has implemented numerous voluntary emission reduction programs, including episodic and year-round programs, use of alternative fuels in local fleets, and technical studies to characterize our situation. The two largest local sources contributing to ozone in San Antonio are: (1) area sources, such as residential and commercial painting, refueling activities, and construction sources; and (2) mobile sources including automobiles, trucks, etc. In order to improve air quality in San Antonio, reducing emissions from automobile engines is critical.

## **III. EMISSION REDUCTION MEASURES**

Many City departments’ operations consist predominantly of indoor duties. However, the use of City vehicles is sometimes required. Therefore, emission reduction measures are related to: (1) the use of alternative fuels in the entire City fleet; (2) reductions in emission from fueling activities; and (3) reductions in vehicle miles traveled, including trip reduction, car-pooling, rescheduling, encouraging use of public transit.

## **Refueling Plan**

Gasoline pumps at Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Zarzamora Fleet Maintenance Service Centers, and the Patrol East, Patrol South, Patrol North, Police Headquarters Fueling Facility, Prue Road, Police Academy and the Airport have been upgraded with vapor recovery systems. With this addition, vehicles will be allowed to refuel without restrictions during the ozone season. Vehicles refueling with diesel, propane or compressed natural gas will not be restricted, nor will vehicles refueling at a service center retrofitted with Stage II VRS. All essential emergency service vehicles will be allowed to refuel as needed.

## **IV. AIR QUALITY HEALTH ALERT DAY NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE**

To implement this AQHAP and to monitor progress and compliance, each department Director has appointed one individual for the Department Environmental Advisors (DEA) insuring that all of the City's efforts are coordinated. The Office of Environmental Policy will notify each coordinator when AQHA are announced by the TCEQ. The DEA is then responsible for ensuring all departmental personnel are notified.

When an Air Quality Health Alert Day is called:

1. The TCEQ will notify the AACOG by 2:00 PM the day prior to the predicted event. AACOG administers a fax broadcast system to over 300 organizations in the San Antonio region notifying them of an upcoming AQHAD. The Office of Environmental Policy is the first point of contact at the City.
2. The Office of Environmental Policy will notify each DEA or alternate. Notification will be made by e-mail to all city employees by e-mail. Alternative notification arrangements can be made for DEAs who do not have regular access to the City email system. Employees will also be notified by an e-mail message sent to all COSA users from the Office of Environmental Policy. DEAs are responsible for notifying their department and all employees who do not have access to e-mail. Employees are encouraged to respond to notifications received from TransGuide, local media, or other forms of communication.
3. Station One will have a direct calling list for weekend notification.
4. Employees may contact the Office of Environmental Policy, at 207-1449, or the TCEQ hotline, at 1-800-64TEXAS, if they need to confirm an AQHAD or are not receiving notification.

The individual Department Directors and DEAs will be responsible for the implementation of their departmental action plan. The Office of Environmental Policy will assist in insuring compliance by monitoring and providing recommendations to the Departments.

## V. DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORS

DEPARTMENT	ADVISOR	PHONE
Animal Care Services	Ronnie Guest	207-6699
Aviation	Steven Southers/ Randy Gray	207-3402/ 207-3511
Building and Equipment Services	Samuel Longoria Alyssa Munoz Lopez	207-5639 207-2102
Capital Improvement Management Services	Razi Hosseini	207-8076
Center City Development Office	TBD	
City Attorney	Martha G. Sepeda	207-8959
City Auditor	Elsa Smithwick	207-2677
City Clerk	Tina Flores	207-6993
Communications and Public Affairs	Angelita DeLeon	207-7234
Convention and Visitors' Bureau	Alice M. Lee	207-6851
Convention Sports and Entertainment Facilities	Theodore Knappick	207-3603
Cultural Affairs	Lewis Andrews	207-6962
Customer Service/311	Terri Salazar	207-3313
Development Services	Terry Kannawin	207-6535
Downtown Operations	Lincoln St. George	207-7895
Economic Development	Ed Davis Cynthia Silva	756-4198 207-8190
Environmental Policy	Liza C. Meyer	207-6449
Finance	Leticia Wawrzyniak	207-8648
Fire/EMS	Arthur Villarreal	207-6631
Historic Preservation	Elizabeth Porterfield	207-3327
Human Resources	Micheraie Canales	207-6506
Human Services	Lauren Quinlan	207-6563
Information Technology Services	Kelly Gray	207-2044
Intergovernmental Relations	Sally Basurto	207-7197
Library	Richard Denning	207-2625
Management and Budget	Tad Wille Connie Munoz	207-8019 207-5474
Military Affairs	Frank Sherman	207-1337
Municipal Court	Sabrina Galindo	207-1333
Parks and Recreation	Janet Martin	207-6090
Planning and Community Development	Joe G. Mendoza	207-2731
Police	Frank Garcia	207-6029
Public Works	Christie Chapman	207-8017
San Antonio Metropolitan Health District	Mimmy Juarez	207-8694
Solid Waste Management Department	Stephen W. Haney	207-6413

## VI. ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS' PLAN

Because of the emission reductions resulting from the use of alternative fuels and the installation of vapor recovery systems at fueling facilities, the AQHAP was modified to provide more flexibility in vehicle operations. However, there are still some activities, such as the use of small gasoline-powered equipment that do not have catalytic converters, street paving, paint striping, and others, that remain prohibited on AQHADs. On AQHADs, all departments will implement the following:

- **Minimize scheduling of morning meetings between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. when possible or teleconference.**  
Because AQHADs are declared with only one-day notice, this practice of delaying meetings should be encouraged year-round.
- **Practice appropriate vehicle operating tips.**  
For example, such as shutting off the engine when parked, avoiding excessive idling such as sitting at drive -thru's, and leaving the vehicle running while parked. Operate the vehicle only on an as-needed basis to reduce emissions. Avoid travel through known congested areas whenever possible.
- **Consider your work schedule to reflect limiting vehicle and equipment use.**  
Encourage multiple crew transports using higher occupancy rate vehicles.
- **Reschedule nonessential operations.**  
For example, lawn maintenance, tree trimming, and use of power saws, generators, etc., which include other gasoline-powered equipment.
- **Reschedule nonessential outdoor painting activities and activities requiring solvent use.**  
Postpone all solvent and paint use to evenings or on a non-Air Quality Health Alert Day.
- **Reschedule nonessential paving activities.**

Year-round, all departments will implement the following:

- 1) **Flextime:** Each Department will evaluate and implement their approved flextime policy with the purpose of minimizing congestion during peak traffic hours.
- 2) **Telecommuting:** Each Department will evaluate and implement a seasonal or year round telecommuting policy to minimize the overall number of vehicles traveling to and from City work areas.
- 3) **Service Contracts:** Department specific AQHA requirements will be incorporated into purchase and service contracts.
- 4) **Annual In-House Training:** Development of an annual training program to increase awareness of AQHAP responsibilities of Departments and employees. Placement of the AQHAP into orientation packets for new employees.
- 5) **Encourage use of public transportation and carpooling.** The City has a bus pass subsidy program and a carpool program for its employees. Call 207-1449 for more information on how to participate. Flexibility on start times will be granted to employees who ride the bus or carpool on AQHADs.
- 6) **Practice energy conservation** in City buildings, including but not limited to: turning off lights and computers and limiting air conditioning uses.

- 7) **Educational materials** on the AQHAP and air quality in general are available to all employees and customers. To request education materials or for staff assistance in presentations, please contact the Office of Environmental Policy at 207-1449.
- 8) Employees are encouraged to implement similar emission reduction measures at their homes.

Departments are directed to follow the plan as outlined above and to reschedule nonessential activities that result in emissions during AQHADS. Department Directors may modify this plan on a case by case basis if certain activities are essential to meet departmental goals. However, it is vital to our community that each City employee provides an example of what can and must be done to improve air quality.

## **VII. DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC PLANS**

The following departments will implement department-specific AQHAPs, taking into account their specialized services and goals:

**Alamodome  
Aviation  
Convention Sports and Entertainment Facilities  
Office of Environmental Policy  
Fire  
Building and Equipment Services  
Metropolitan Health District  
Parks & Recreation  
Development Services  
Police  
Metropolitan Health District  
Public Works  
Finance - Purchasing**

**Note: Operations of these departments include the use of equipment that may result in significant air emissions. Specific plans are also included for departments which deliver health and public safety related services.**

### **ALAMODOME**

Modify or reschedule activities to assist in reducing the amount of VOC and NOx generated.

- The use of forklifts will be restricted to essential use only.
- Little to no use of vehicles and gasoline powered equipment. This will be rescheduled to non-AQHA days or only as critical needs develop.
- All gasoline powered equipment such as leaf blowers, pumps, etc. will not be utilized.
- Testing of the emergency generator will be rescheduled to non-AQHA days as needed.
- All painting activities will be rescheduled to non-AQHA or with the exception of event days.

- Notice will be provided to Alamodome clients/tenants concerning AQHA measures and advising them of recommendations to assist the City in reducing the amount of VOC and NOx generated.
- Battery powered ground equipment will be utilized on AQHA days.
- Equipment propane bottles will not be filled until after critical AQHA hours or for essential use only.
- Boilers will be banked and ran for essential use during AQHA days.

## **AVIATION**

- Airport Rescue & Firefighting will reschedule or delete job tasks as follows:
  - All drills and equipment testing will be rescheduled to off-peak times.
  - Housekeeping duties which involve the use of motor vehicles or motorized equipment will be rescheduled.
  - Parking shuttle buses will practice appropriate vehicle operating tips, such as shutting off the engine when parked and operating on an as-needed basis.
- Airport Maintenance will reschedule or delete job tasks as follows:
  - Except as required for compliance with Federal Aviation Regulations, mowing, trimming, and landscape activities which require the use of gasoline-powered engines will be altered to off-peak times or deleted for a cycle.
  - All exterior painting activities will be rescheduled.
  - Construction equipment and asphalt pavement placement will be scheduled for optimum air quality days.
  - Construction activities may take place during AQHADs if deemed essential.
- HVAC will suspend Freon recovery operations during AQHADs.
- Airport Police and Ground Transportation Agents will monitor curbside activities at the terminals for excessive idling of vehicles and assist with public advisories.
- Airport Operations will monitor conditions of vehicular use on the Air Operations Area of the Airport, as well as aircraft engine run-ups, and work closely with tenants to assist in control of excess emissions.
- All nonessential inspections that require vehicle use will be altered to off-peak times during AQHADs.
- Planning & Engineering will monitor construction activities and work closely with contractors to reschedule activities, reduce the use of or completely cease those functions or equipment operations which will contribute to poor air quality.
- Airport Parking will ensure all lot entries are in operation to avoid lines of idling vehicles waiting for entry. Likewise, monitor exit lane traffic and staff exit booths accordingly, to avoid excessive lines of idling vehicles waiting to exit.
- No fuel transport will be accepted for off-loading on AQHADs. All other off-loads of fuel will be limited to very early mornings or late evenings.
- Automotive shop vehicle engine test runs will be altered to off-peak times or rescheduled for a later date.

### **CONVENTION SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES**

- The Convention Sports and Entertainment Facilities Department will modify or reschedule activities to assist in reducing the amount of VOC and NOx generated.
- Use of Convention Facilities' forklifts will be restricted to essential use only. As much as possible, all use will be rescheduled to non-AQHADs.
- All gasoline powered equipment such as leaf blowers, pumps, etc., will not be utilized.
- Testing of the emergency generator will not be scheduled.
- All painting activities will be rescheduled.
- All contracted services that can be rescheduled to non-AQHADs will be rescheduled.
- Notices will be provided to Convention Facilities Clients concerning AQHAD Measures and advising them on how to assist the City in reducing the amount of VOC and NOx generated emissions.
- Posting of Air Quality Health Alert notice will be posted on the marquee.

### **OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

On AQHADs, the following practices will be implemented:

- Provide updates and notices to DEAs and the Department of Communications and Public Affairs regarding AQHADs.
- Answer questions from City departments and the general public about appropriate practices during AQHADs.
- Reschedule nonessential construction.
- Staff shall limit travel through telework or teleconferencing or use public or alternate transit options for travel.
- Alternate work scheduling will be implemented to allow supervisors to permit employees flex-time scheduling and telecommuting.

### **FIRE**

- Reduce the movement of nonpublic safety city vehicles, i.e., and reschedule deliveries.
- Field (tanker) refueling operations will be suspended.
- Reschedule bonfire permits.
- Reschedule control burning permits.
- Reschedule blasting permits.
- Reschedule indoor pyro and outdoor fireworks displays.
- Reschedule nonessential inspections on commercial establishments.
- Suspend starting the apparatus, engines, generators and PPVs at shift changes.
- Suspend hose practice and driving practice.
- Reschedule preventative maintenance.
- Suspend outdoor cooking.

### **BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT SERVICES**

- The use or operations of gasoline driven lawn mowers, edgers, blowers, power saws, generators, etc., will be prohibited. Repairs to such equipment may be undertaken but testing will be delayed until the advisory has been lifted.
- Idling of vehicles or equipment being repaired or serviced will be kept to an absolute minimum. Only public safety vehicles (Police & Fire) will be road tested.
- Meetings which require the movement of personnel by vehicle will be re-scheduled to begin not earlier than 10:00 a.m.
- Painting on vehicles or equipment will be strictly prohibited.
- For vehicles assigned to each division, travel will not be initiated without the approval of the DEA. Request for such travel must be justifiable as essential to operations.
- Approved travel will be restricted to the essential function justified only.
- Idling of vehicles during approved travel must be kept to the absolute minimum. Under no circumstances will vehicles be left idling for the sole purpose of keeping the vehicle cool through use of the air conditioning system.
- The use of gasoline engine driven compressors to power pneumatic tools on service vehicles will be closely monitored by section supervisors. Except for tasks requiring impact wrenches, compressors will not be started.

### **METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT**

- Outreach operations will be curtailed or deferred as much as possible, so long as the health of our clients is not compromised.
- Short notice leave requests will be considered if employees remain at home.
- Employees should remain in one location during the workday if possible.
- Bringing a lunch or walking to a nearby restaurant will be encouraged.
- Vector Control operations will be substituted with in-service training.
- All operations of Animal Control and emergency Bee Calls will be exempted.
- All employees are expected to comply with the provisions of this plan. Supervisors will be held accountable for the implementation of said plan.

### **PARKS & RECREATION**

On AQHADs, the following operations will be suspended:

- Mowing and edging with 4-stroke cycle gasoline powered equipment with the exception of 2-stroke cycle equipment that uses a tier 2 engine.
- Spraying of insecticides and herbicides.
- Mixing, paving, and street patching in parks with hot asphalt concrete.
- Nonessential construction and heavy equipment use.
- Graffiti removal by spraying.
- Parking lot striping and sign painting by spraying.
- Non-essential 4-cycle mowing equipment or engines.

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

- On AQHADs, supervisors will have an appointed number of personnel to meet them at the different service centers for the purpose of car-pooling to work.
- Supervisory personnel will transport the mail from the different service centers.
- Overtime which requires use of vehicles will be limited, except for emergencies.
- There will be no sign pickup by the Sign Section.
- There will be no bus bench ad inspections.
- Modified (flex time) reporting times will be considered for employees using public transportation.

### **POLICE**

Each Division ensures that all Units within the Division have an AQHAP that will be implemented upon notification of an AQHAD. Unit AQHAP's are formulated to the activities of each individual Unit.

Individual Unit AQHAP's should include items from the following:

- Reduce use of nonemergency vehicles
- Reschedule nonessential operations
- Enforce polluting vehicle ordinances or statutes (Uniform Division)
- Curtail use of Police Department Fleet
- Driver training for cadets and in-service will be delayed until 9:00 a.m. on AQHADs.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

On AQHADs, the following practices will be implemented:

- Reschedule nonessential operations using gasoline-powered equipment, such as lawn mowers, edgers, blowers, power saws, tree trimmers, and generators.
- Reschedule street striping and other painting activities.
- Reschedule graffiti removal activities.
- Reschedule nonessential construction.
- Field (tanker) refueling operations will be suspended during AQHADs.
- Operation of construction and heavy equipment will be restricted to essential use.
- Personnel shall be assigned at the job site to limit travel.
- In-house paving operations and mixing of hot asphalt concrete will be suspended.
- Spraying of insecticides will be suspended.
- Crews will be reassigned to various manual tasks such as erecting signs, site cleanup, etc.

### **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

On AQHADs, the following practices will be implemented:

- Reschedule nonessential operations using gasoline-powered equipment, such as lawn mowers, edgers, blowers, power saws, tree trimmers, and generators.

- Reschedule graffiti removal activities.
- Freon extraction shall be suspended.
- Reschedule nonessential construction.
- Operation of construction and heavy equipment will be restricted to essential use.
- Personnel shall be assigned at the job site to limit travel.
- Alternate work schedules will be implemented to allow supervisors to permit employees flex-time scheduling and telecommuting.
- Crews will be reassigned to various manual tasks such as erecting signs, site cleanup, etc.

## **VIII. EXISTING CITY OF SAN ANTONIO LONG-TERM ACTIONS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS**

The City of San Antonio has implemented a number of programs to reduce adverse impacts of emissions on air quality. The following programs have the long-term benefit of providing a cleaner year-round operation while allowing for an enhanced level of service to the community.

### **Ultra-low Sulfur Diesel**

- Implemented voluntary introduction of an ultra low sulfur diesel for the City's and off-road diesel vehicles

### **Air Improvement Resources (AIR) Committee**

- The City of San Antonio in partnership with Bexar County, Alamo Area Council of Governments, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization coordinates policy, technical, and outreach issues for the San Antonio area.

### **Public Education and Outreach**

- Work with area governmental entities and local media to develop outreach programs

### **Fuel Facilities Upgrade**

- Stage I Vapor Recovery Systems (VRS) are in place on the underground gasoline storage tanks at all City fueling facilities to enable recycling of fumes from the underground storage tank back to the tanker truck .
- Stage II VRS are in place on gasoline dispenser pumps at all nine eligible fueling facilities to allow for recovery of gasoline vapors from vehicle refueling. The vapors are recycled back to the underground storage tank.

### **Ozone Season Refueling Plan**

- The installation of Stage I and Stage II VRS, allows all vehicles, gasoline, diesel, and propane, to refuel at all facilities without restrictions.

### **Emissions Testing**

- The Fleet Department implements a modified Inspection & Maintenance (I/M) Program using a four-gas emissions analyzer. All vehicles are tested by the I/M Program during the annual safety inspection. Any identified problems are corrected and the vehicle is re-tested.

### **Employee Bus Pass Program**

- To encourage employee bus ridership, the City has a bus pass program for its employees.

### **Flextime Policy**

- The City has implemented a flextime policy for all employees. Department Director's shall implement their individual flextime programs for their employees.

### **Traffic Signal Modernization/Synchronization (TSSM) Program**

On October 1, 2007 the City initiated a 5-year, \$33 million Traffic Signal System Modernization/Synchronization Program that consists of three components:

- Comprehensive Communications Network which will provide a direct communications link to each traffic signal to provide remote accessibility that will allow staff to address operational issues in a timely manner;
- Advanced Traffic Signal Control System that provides operational flexibility necessary to implement complex traffic signal timing plans; and
- Traffic Signal Coordination which will develop and implement optimal timing plans for the City's 1,200+ traffic signals necessary to allow for the movement of the greatest number of vehicles through a group of traffic signals with minimal stops.

The City matched funds of \$2,847,360.00 in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds from the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) grant program which are being used to fund the new timing plans.

Just over 400 of the 1200 traffic signals have been upgraded under this program.

- In 2004 and 2005 the City installed high-efficiency LED traffic signals for 1097 traffic intersections. The City is currently identifying funding to begin the replacement process.

### **Preservation of Trees**

- The City's Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance attempts to preserve existing trees, encourage the planting of new trees, and encourage responsible development. The City's Arborist can provide information on trees beneficial to air quality.

### **Green Building Policy**

- Policy commits future City commercial-type buildings be designed and constructed according to economical and technically feasible high performance building concepts including: energy efficiency, green building guidelines.

- The basis of the Policy guidelines will utilize the standards and requirements of the Silver Level under the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system
- The Office of Environmental Policy, in conjunction with Planning and Development Services Department developed and achieved Council approval for advanced residential and commercial building codes as part of the Mayor's Task Force on Sustainable Buildings.

#### **Hybrid Taxi Ordinance**

- This program offers additional taxicab permits based on the implementation of hybrid vehicles for taxicab fleets. Failure to implement this change to the City Code will limit taxi companies to the operation of older internal combustion engine taxicabs without incentives to utilize more environmentally friendly hybrids.

#### **Free Downtown Hybrid Parking**

- Vehicles displaying an authorized vehicle placard are allowed to park free at any downtown parking meter.